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Revelations in Marine Inquiry. Evidence of Graft Continues To be Heard

Quebec, Nov. 12.—The principal feature today in the investigation now being held here into the affairs of the marine department was the evidence given this afternoon by Mr. Gregory, late agent of the department in this city and during three hours the witness was under examination he took occasion to make a full statement of his transactions with the department during the last 15 years. As on former occasions the court room was packed to the doors, as it had been reported that Mr. Gregory would be called upon during the afternoon.

To the surviving sailing four, witnesses had been examined and during the afternoon, besides Mr. Gregory, the only other important witness to be called was former agent of the department, Mr. Watson. The latter testified to the fact that he had been in the employ of the department for eleven years as former manager and was at present under suspension. He had received \$15 from David's book-keeper, for having done some work for the latter. He had also received money from Mr. Murphy but could not state what amount.

A book of expensary settled down upon the crowded courtroom, when Mr. Gregory, whose name has been so prominently in the headlines during the present investigation, entered the witness box. This proved to be most interesting and exceedingly dramatic at times. He had been a mounted local agent of the department in 1903 and was chief agent of the Confederation. The witness produced a book containing the names of the firms with whom he had financial dealings and from whom he had received compensation since 1903 to 1907. These were about thirty of these firms. He then directed his book back to the same page where the witness pointed out that of his account had been overdrawn at times as much as \$20,000. He had also another book in which was noted the interest due him by the government. Asked by Mr. Watson if he had deposited in the bank to his credit the money received from Mr. David, the witness replied that it had probably gone into the Montreal account. He had not given any receipt nor was it like that any money was present when the money was handed to him. The receipt of the money was not entered in the book he reported to the minister nor to any of the officials. The same applied to Mr. Murphy's accounts, as notes were made of these receipts as they went to receive his account at the bank. Mr. Gregory could not give an approximate of the total amount given for it. He had never made any report on the matter to the department. He stated it was his own private business and the department had nothing to do with it. After stating that he had familiarized himself as much as possible with wholesale and retail prices, the witness stated that he knew what was called "Quebec prices" but could not say what was the difference between Quebec prices and ordinary retail prices as he did not go outside of Quebec, but took good care to keep the trade in this city. This was his excuse. However, he thought that Quebec prices were higher than the outside prices. He never heard that Schmidt and others had accepted money until he had heard of it at the present investigation. Asked if he thought that as government officials they were justified in accepting money, the witness replied that he did not know if he would be asked such a question. The chairman asked them were. However, if he had known it he would not have allowed it and would have reported it to the department. He now admitted that he owned a hotel at Havre, Quebec, known as the "Favreville Hotel". He had bought it for \$100, but had spent ten times that dollar upon it. It was not a very good speculation.

He had received money from the government in advance but had also advanced money to the government. At one time the department owed him \$100,000 and the department's money was mixed up with his personal accounts when they owed his money as he wanted to receive himself for the money advanced. Mr. Gregory stated that he wished further to state that he had never signed a cheque or an account until it had been passed by the checking clerk, but had some most orders to any one except those on the national list. Orders had gone to friends of the government and he had often been reminded that they should not be too hard on their party friends.

Quebec, Nov. 12.—Continuing his evidence before the marine investigation, Mr. Gregory said that the bank had charged interest but he had not been required for this by the government.

"The year over receive anything from the government or from work-lagging for interest" asked Mr. Watson.

"Not one cent," said Mr. Gregory.

From 1901 to last winter it was pretty much the same way and he was not made arrangements to carry on the department's business. A cheque dated May 28, 1904, to "James in Gregory" was sent, and drew \$5,000 from the witness.

"I say most credit was the marine department," the witness replied. He said that the government had paid him a sum of interest for the money which he had raised for the government. He did not charge twice doing business with the department five per cent on the year but only on money advanced to him. He had always been friendly with David and when the minister had spoken to him about the interest of the St. Lawrence he said that there was only one honest man to whom he could trust himself and that was George David. The difference in price was due to the fact that the Quebec agency had no storehouse facilities and all stores had to be purchased retail.

Since he had left the department he had left the department to be taken to a party of letters sent to him in Montreal at 14 cents when he was in Montreal for some time. He did not pay any more than the goods were worth and the difference in price in Quebec was warranted by quality. He had not signed any orders to be the price which should be paid for goods and had done everything to save the department, but was paid by every minute to do the best he could for the friends of the government. Now, Mr. Broder was going to give all this and he would not, for it would risk the possibility of accusation of great responsibility.

Mr. Watson then questioned the witness as to a letter of interest sent from the department in regard to the interest of the department and protesting against receiving the amount of money voted. He said that the witness would be paid between the interest and when they were sent to him to give a guarantee that an attempt would be made to get the money. But the work could not be stopped and the witness was not to be paid of the same time as the official message. Mr. Gregory also produced a letter which was read out, in which was mentioned to judge of the letter which was read out. He said that the letter was not in the letter book but in the letter book. He said that the letter was not in the letter book but in the letter book. He said that the letter was not in the letter book but in the letter book.

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